

APPENDIX B

**GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA
12/9/97 RAB MEETING**

**GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY
RAB Meeting – December 9, 1997**

The December 9, 1997 Gerstle River Expansion Area Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting was held at Delta Junction City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska. The RAB Meeting was scheduled based on feedback from the RAB Kick-Off Meeting held on August 12, 1997.

The meeting was advertised in the Delta Wind on November 26, 1997 and in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner on December 3 and December 7, 1997. A public notice was also posted in several locations within the community of Delta Junction. Copies of the advertisements and the poster are included in Exhibit A.

Mr. Robert Chivvis of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the Agency Co-chair for the RAB, presided over the meeting. Representatives from the Delta Junction community, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, the Corps, and Dames & Moore (contractor to the Corps) were in attendance. A copy of the sign-in sheet for the meeting is included in Exhibit B. Meeting handouts are included in Exhibit C.

The purpose of the meeting was to confirm new RAB Members, adopt RAB bylaws and mission statement, elect a community co-chairperson, and review the current status of the Gerstle River Expansion Area site investigation. The meeting also included a presentation by Mr. Ronan Short of ADEC and a teleconference with Mr. Tom See, a former Gerstle River Test Officer. The new RAB members were confirmed (see meeting minutes), Mr. Tim Webb was elected as the Primary Community Co-chair, and Mr. Nat Good was elected as the Secondary Community Co-chair. Current RAB members are listed on the current RAB Member Contact List included in Exhibit D. Due to time constraints, it was agreed that adoption of RAB bylaws and mission statement would be postponed until the next RAB meeting, scheduled for February 11, 1998. Meeting minutes from the December 9, 1997 RAB Meeting are located directly following this summary.

Meeting Notes

Gerstle River Expansion Area

Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

December 9, 1997, 6:00 p.m., Delta Junction City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Robert Chivvis of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

Introductions and sign in

Agenda Items (see attached agenda)

1. Approve meeting agenda - The Corps asked for suggestions on changes to the agenda. It was suggested that the agenda items be reordered and the Corps initiate new members joining the RAB after the project information was presented. It was mentioned that, if necessary, we could postpone adoption of bylaws to next meeting.

The Corps gave a brief description of a RAB and the responsibilities of RAB members. The Corps explained that the RAB would meet 3 to 4 times per year, or more if the RAB felt necessary. The Corps explained that they are still discovering new information and there are documents still missing. They want to establish the RAB to form a team to communicate project information to the community, and receive input from the community.

7. Update on the project - The Corps answered questions regarding how the Corps is responsible for cleanup operations at formerly used defense sites. At Gerstle River, sites 9 and 10 were the two sites of primary concern, but the Corps is responsible for any cleanup operation on the entire 80,000 acres.

Teleconference with Tom See, GB Test Officer for Devil Hole I in 1965. The group reviewed the questions that were going to be asked of Mr. See and asked for any additional questions from the group. Before the teleconference began, the Corps gave a brief summary of the document search they are in the process of conducting and how they came into contact with Mr. See. The Corps mentioned that they had found the test plans for Devil Hole I, and were trying to obtain them.

Teleconference Notes

Mr. See was asked when he was involved in the testing at Gerstle River and to explain his role. He indicated that he was at Gerstle River during 1965 and 1966 and that he was a Test Officer for the Devil Hole I tests. His role as test officer included acting as the leader and coordinator for the test grid and the test themselves. Also present during the test operations were a Munitions Officer, Safety Officer, Supply Officer, and Army Officer.

Mr. See was asked to explain how the tests were conducted and how they were observed. He explained that munitions were either set off in place or fired into the grid. After detonation, air

samples would be collected. Observers were located on a wanagon (a one and half story platform) and they would watch for a burst or cloud. The crew went in and picked up the samplers after the tests were completed and would make note of anything unusual or questionable.

Mr. See was asked how observations were made during multiple detonations. He replied that rarely are detonations simultaneous. You can see the burst and count the explosions.

Mr. See was asked what the procedure would be if there was a question about detonation. He explained that the round would have to be located and anything questionable would be noted. Mr. See recalls that there were no duds on the grid itself, and they did not have any alerts.

Mr. See was asked what the procedure was for siting in. He explained that they would use high explosive rounds for siting in, and he recalled no duds. A round went off outside the grid, more toward the siting area. This round would have been a numbered trial, but would have been recorded as no data since the round didn't land within the grid. The siting area is more toward Gerstle River, a swampy area. Mr. See indicated that he had found notes listing all the trials, but that he did not have registration rounds. He advised that the Corps try to find the final report, which consists of the test officer's log, the safety report, and the munitions report.

Mr. See was asked if he participated in the Devil Hole II preliminary tests. He replied that he was present during tests at the Aspen grid 1408 for GB testing. GB testing took place at the Aspen and Spruce Grid (closer to Gerstle River) 59073.

Mr. See was asked how far away the observers were from the grids. He replied that he would estimate around 1,000 feet.

Mr. See was asked what "questionable" meant as it referred to notes in the log book. He explained that the burst may have been near another burst and the height is questionable, but one would have to get the munitions report to get the data. There was a report for every trial. Mr. See recalled that the munitions officer was Mr. Cliff Shields.

Mr. See was asked whether he recalled any duds outside the grid. He replied that he has no records on rounds that were fired, he recalls no duds that were high explosive ranging rounds. There was a round that missed the grid, a no data round (1402 artillery rounds).

Mr. See was asked whether Mr. Shields was present for the 1966 testing. He replied yes.

Mr. See was asked to explain what was done with sampling equipment. He explained that the samples were brought off the grid, the equipment was decontaminated, and the tests were taken to Fort Greely.

Mr. See was asked whether he recalls any suspect sites that may be worth looking into. He replied no.

Mr. See was asked whether he recalls the Army Officer in charge. He indicated that he recalled the name Ledbetter. He did not recall the name of the Artillery Officer.

Mr. See was asked if there was a disposal area at the command post. He replied that there was no disposal area at the command post and that equipment went to the garbage pit.

6. ADEC Presentation – Mr. Ronan Short of ADEC gave a brief presentation on the history of their involvement with the Gerstle River Expansion Area. ADEC is the regulatory agency responsible for the protection of human health at the site. ADEC recognizes that a lot of progress has been made so far on this project. It should not be misunderstood that ADEC is working with the Corps and is not concerned about the site. ADEC's goals are still distinct with regard to the project, even though there is a close working relationship between the Corps, ADEC, and ADNR. ADEC is especially concerned with finding and declassifying documents pertaining to site activities. Institutional controls may need to be implemented if questions regarding the safety of the site cannot be readily answered. ADEC wants to continue trying to answer questions about the site, keep community interest high, and continue working together to find solutions.

A question was posed as to where ADEC stands with respect to the safety of the site today.

Mr. Short replied that, although issues are not completely resolved yet, they are close to stating that there are no munitions left at site 9. The document search is the first step, then an intrusive investigation should occur to support findings.

7. Project Update (Continued)

What has been accomplished to date?

- ♦ The Corps has established a web site at <http://knik.poa.usace.army.mil> to post information on the site, meeting minutes, fact sheets, etc.
- ♦ In response to a comment received at the August RAB meeting, the Corps advertised the RAB meeting using posters and a public service announcement, in addition to newspaper advertisements.
- ♦ The Corps is still working to declassify documents. They are making requests to have specific sections declassified, since sections can often be declassified more quickly than entire documents.
- ♦ The Corps has prepared a fact sheet on the chemical agents VX and GB for general information. The fact sheet is available at this RAB meeting.

A comment from a community member present was that the RAB needed to work on 2-way communication--rather than communications from the Corps to the community, or between agencies.

- ♦ We've conducted the teleconference with Mr. See.

What the Corps plans to accomplish in the future:

- ♦ Finalize the summary of testing records.
- ♦ Summarize all previous investigative work performed at the site since 1994.
- ♦ Refine geophysical data and compare with testing records.

The question arose that, if the Corps used a hydroaxe out at the site, how can anything be left out there? The Corps replied that they are confident the surface does not contain explosive rounds.

- ♦ Perform additional geophysical work, if needed.
- ♦ Determine risk at testing areas and examine options.
- ♦ Perform confirmation digs for any known anomalies.
- ♦ Remove drums and investigate other dump areas for removals.

The Corps asked if there were any comments on their preliminary plan for the Gerstle River Site.

A community member replied that the preliminary plan contained broad generalizations—and that the community needs more specifics on what records are being searched and specifically what's been done.

2. Approve August RAB meeting minutes - Approved.

3. Confirmation of new RAB members:

Audrey A. Brown
Tim Webb
Tom Miller
Tamie Webb
Art Griswold

4. RAB Bylaws - The Corps will send out the draft bylaws to the new RAB members. Bylaws will be adopted next meeting.

5. Election of community co-chair:

Tim Webb (primary co-chair)
Nat Good (alternate co-chair)

General Comments:

Try to get the draft meeting minutes sent out to RAB members as soon as possible.

An ADEC representative asked the community how the agencies can communicate better with the community. A reply was to send out fact sheets on what has been done so far.

Suggestion that a newspaper article be written for the Delta Wind that would provide information on the project and the RAB.

Question on time frame of concern at the Gerstle River Expansion Area. The Corps is concerned with the years between 1954 and 1967.

Has the Corps researched the National Archives in Anchorage? No (was the answer provided during the RAB meeting, but was incorrect. According to the Archive Search Report dated July 1994, the Corps [St. Louis] visited the Anchorage National Archives in May 1994).

It was suggested that the next meeting be held before planning starts for the 1998 field season, and after the Corps has completed the Records Review Memorandum.

It was decided that the next meeting would be held on February 11, 1998 at 6:00 p.m. at Delta Junction City Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Gerstle River Expansion Area Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting December 9, 1997



Draft Meeting Agenda

- 1) Approve Meeting Agenda
- 2) Approval of August 12, 1997 RAB Meeting Minutes
- 3) Confirmation of New RAB Members
- 4) Adoption of RAB Bylaws and Mission Statement
- 5) Election of Community Co-Chair
 - Review of Responsibilities
 - Nominations
 - Election
- 6) ADEC Presentation
- 7) Update on Corps of Engineers Site Investigation
 - Document Review and Declassification
 - Proposed Activities for 1998 Field Season
 - Possible Teleconference with Mr. Tom See, Former Gerstle River Test Officer
- 8) Date, Time, and Agenda Items for next RAB Meeting

EXHIBIT A

MEETING ADVERTISEMENTS

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10 ACRES

Clearwater Road, behind Fire Station
Terms - Owner finance available
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FOR LEASE

APPROXIMATELY 1600 sq. ft. commercial
space. New insulation, sheetrock, paint,
carpet. Can be divided into 2 parts, one 700
sq. ft., and one 900 sq. ft. Between Pizza
Bella and Granite View Sports. Call Helen
Orcutt at 895-4562. 24staiB

LOTS OF LOTS

Good trees, shallow water, power and road
in. Owner financing. On Jack Warren and
Clearwater Lake (Triple H) Rd. 895-4357 or
895-4897. 22saliB

2½ & 5 ACRE LOTS - Nistler & James Rd.
Power, phone, maintained road & view.
\$1,200 per acre. Call 895-1946. 23mcriB

FOR SALE 4 bedroom home, approx. 3500
sq.ft. on 9 acres, lots of extra rooms, 2½
bath, fireplace, full basement, sun porch
and large living room. Several wood out-
buildings, enclosed garden, greenhouse,
and fenced back yard. Tom or Lanell
Theisen, 895-4850 or write to Box 212, Delta
Jct., Alaska 99737. 3the2B

HOME WANTED

Pre-approved buyer looking WELL BUILT
home. 2500 sq.ft., 8" or better walls and
heated garage. 5 to 25 acres of land. Out-
buildings, shop, or horse property are all a
plus. Call Cal or connie at 895-6253. gur1B

Delta Wind

November 26, 1997 -- 13

Select your GVEA Board Representative

Next spring, GVEA's Service Districts 5 and 6 will elect represen-
tatives to the GVEA Board of Directors.

Nominating committees...

- meet 2 to 3 times during January
- select qualified board candidates
- must reside in the district holding an election
- will be appointed by the Board, Dec. 15, 1997

Interested in serving on your district's nominating committee? Con-
tact GVEA by December 15th.

District 6 is the area south of the Salcha River, including Harding and
Birch Lakes, Fort Greely and Delta Junction. Your district number is
printed on your bill. For more information, call 1-800-770-GVEA
(4832) or 451-5604 from Fairbanks.

Golden Valley Electric Assn.
758 Illinois St. 452-1151
1-800-770-GVEA



GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
will be holding a Restoration
Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting for
the Gerstle River Expansion Area.
The meeting is open to all interested
parties. Topics to be discussed

include a review of minutes from the last RAB meeting, election of a community co-
chairperson, adoption of RAB bylaws, and the status of activities relating to the Gerstle
River Expansion Area cleanup.

DATE: Tuesday, December 9th
TIME: 6:00 pm
PLACE: Delta Junction City Hall

For more information on this project, please contact:

Mr. Bob Chivvis, U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska
(907) 753-5782

Certain misdemeanor offenses, primarily violations of city ordinances, are not carried in this listing. Those judgments, as well as those involving more serious offenses, are a matter of public record and are available for inspection at the court clerk's office.

SUPERIOR COURT

Judge Ralph R. Beistline
Nov. 14

Barbara A. Cofey, 38, pleaded no contest to third-degree misconduct involving a controlled substance, four years in jail with three years suspended, undergo substance abuse screening and counseling, no possession or consumption of alcohol or controlled substances, pay \$200 restitution, on probation three years. A second count of third-degree misconduct involving a controlled substance was dismissed.

Judge Dale O. Curda

contest to second-degree theft, two years in jail, must complete GED while in custody.
Nov. 13

Thaddeus O. Lewis, 36, pleaded no contest to two counts of third-degree misconduct involving a controlled substance: on each count, four years in jail, jail time is concurrent and presumptive, pay \$650 restitution, firearms and controlled substances are forfeited. Three additional counts of third-degree misconduct involving a controlled substance were dismissed.
Nov. 18

Frank M. Tegoseak, 19, pleaded no contest to second-degree theft, imposition of sentence suspended, 90 days in jail, must complete 30 day residential treatment program, no possession or consumption of alcohol or controlled substances, on probation 18 months.
Judge Mary E. Greene
Nov. 20

jail, on probation two years. Charges of second-degree theft and sixth-degree misconduct involving a controlled substance were dismissed.

Judge Niesje J. Steinkruger
Nov. 18

John C. Vanblarcom, 25, pleaded no contest to a reduced charge of second-degree theft, nine months in jail with all but 11 days suspended, undergo substance abuse screening and counseling, pay \$2,400 restitution, perform 50 hours community service, on probation one year. The original charge was first-degree theft.

DISTRICT COURT

Magistrate Katherine R. Bachelder
Oct. 4

Ashi C.E. Benally, 24, pleaded no contest to driving while intoxicated, fined \$500, 45 days in jail with 25 days suspended, pay \$1,000 cost of incarceration, perform 160 hours community service while incarcerated, driver's li-

ensing, on probation two years. A second count of driving while intoxicated was dismissed.
Oct. 24

Vincent E. Nelson, 24, pleaded no contest to driving while intoxicated, 10 days in jail, driver's license revoked concurrent with administration, perform 80 hours of service, on probation one year.
Oct. 31

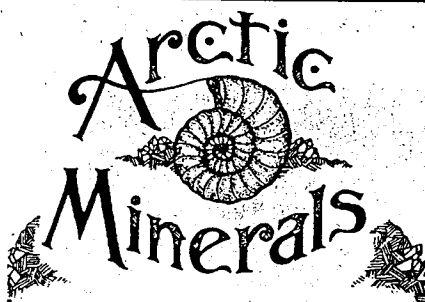
Kenneth E. Weaver, 24, pleaded no contest to fourth-degree assault, 50 days in jail with 50 days contact with victim, on probation one year. A second count of assault was dismissed.

Jerry A. Dean, 33, pleaded no contest to driving while intoxicated, 10 days in jail suspended, license revoked for 90 days with administrative revocation, 80 hours community service, on probation one year.

Dana J. Simmons, 34, pleaded no contest to domestic assault, 15 days in jail with 15 days suspended, alcohol screening and contact with victim, on probation one year.
Nov. 1

Earl H. Ross, 23, pleaded no contest to resisting arrest and driving while intoxicated, on count one, 30 days in jail suspended; on count two, 29 days in jail suspended; on count three, 29 days in jail suspended; on probation one year.

Lance E. Bagley, 32



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Gerstle River Expansion Area RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be holding a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting for the Gerstle River Expansion Area. The meeting is open to all interested parties. Topics to

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DATE: Tuesday, December 9th
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Delta Junction City Hall

For more information on this project, please contact:
Mr. Bob Chivvis, U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska

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This letter writer wasn't whistling

Dear Ann Landers: I've been reading your column for many years, and every now and then, I detect a letter I believe you "invented" to add a little excitement. The one about the condom that whistles "Dixie" strained credibility. Funny, yes, but it certainly was too far out to be genuine. You invented that one, didn't you? How about 'fessing up?—Toledo Reader

Dear Toledo: There is no way I could make up letters that compare with what crosses my desk every day. I wouldn't even try. Keep reading for one that should clear the air regarding

Ann Landers



"Dixie."

Dear Ann Landers: I read your column about the tune-playing condom in the San Francisco Examiner & Chronicle. I am the attorney who obtained the patent for my client, Paul Lyons, who invented it.

I have one minor correction.

You stated that the patent was "recently issued." Actually, the patent was issued in 1992. Sincerely yours—David Pressman, intellectual property law, San Francisco, Calif.

Dear David Pressman: I stand corrected. Thank you for taking the time and trouble to write. I have received dozens of suggestions for tunes that would be "appropriate," but none were suitable for a family newspaper.

Dear Ann Landers: I have wrestled all my life with this question, and I hope you can provide an answer. What is God's

name? The Jews say name has been lost to The Christians call Him The Muslims call Him the AA crowd choose Power." So, what is grass Believer in Nic Ky.

Dear Nicholasville response is from a Jesuit: According to Hebrew teachings, God is omnipotent, so He contained in any one assure you, however She) will answer to you respectfully with.

Dear Ann Landers Middle-America, Wisconsin, a writer who has grown your column. I would like something about people their own lives. You mentioned this recently, and it reminded me something happened in our town last of my fellow classmates committed suicide.

The girl was only 15.

Gerstle River Expansion Area RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING



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DATE: Tuesday, December 9th
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PLACE: Delta Junction City Hall

For more information on this project, please contact:
Mr. Bob Chivvis, U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska

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PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Gerstle River Expansion Area

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday, December 9th
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: Delta Junction City Hall

*For more information,
contact:*

Mr. Bob Chivvis, U.S. Army
Engineer District, Alaska
(907) 753-5782



EXHIBIT B

SIGN-IN SHEETS

Gerstle River Expansion Area

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

December 9, 1997

Sign In Sheet



Name (Please Print)	Organization (if applicable)	Address	Phone No.
ROBERT LAYNE	DNR/DL	3700 AIRPORT Way, Fairb., AK 99709	451-2735
P.R. MUEER		POB 380 Delta Jet, AK	895-4493
STEVE FIELDS	SACCA - BIG DELTA SWCD	PO BOX 1013 D.J. AK	99737 8951950
CLARK MILNE	D + M - FAI	Fairbanks, 99701	456-7892
THOMAS MILLER		1460 BOX 1260 Delta Jet	825-5157
AL EDGREN	DNR - Forestry	P.O. Box 1149 Delta Jet 99737	895-4225
DEBBY FROVY	CONSULTANT TO ADEL	203 W. 15 th Ave Ste 103, Anch 99501	272-8400
RONALD THOMPSON	ADEL	618 W. 11 th Ave	457-2156
DAVE WATKINSON	ACE	POB 898, Anch, AK 99506	753-2804
DR. K. GINSWOLD	(Delta)	HC 60 - 09493 99737	895-6248
TIM WEBB	Resident Delta EMS (several org's)	HC 62 Box 5358 D.J. 99737	895-1024
AUDREY A. BROWN	Resident + atty	Box 990 D.S. 99737	895-4537/5297
BOB CHIRVIS	Corps of Engineer	Anchorage	753-5782
SIM LEVING	COE	Anch	753-5685

[illegible]

EXHIBIT C

MEETING HANDOUTS

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Fact Sheet



What is a RAB?

A RAB is a board established at a community involved in a cleanup through the Defense Environmental Restoration Program process. The goals of the RAB are to provide information on program activities by:

- ✓ Acting as a forum for the discussion and exchange of information on cleanup activities between the Corps of Engineers (Corps), regulatory agencies, and the community.
- ✓ Providing an opportunity for community members to participate in the cleanup process and provide input to decision makers.
- ✓ Complementing other community involvement initiatives.

Who are the members of a RAB?

A RAB consists of two groups: community members and government representatives. All members are equal. The meetings are co-chaired by a representative of the community and the Corps Project Manager. The members of a RAB include:

- ✓ Representatives of community interests or groups;
- ✓ Interested individuals;
- ✓ Corps Project Manager;
- ✓ State agency representatives (ADEC, ADNR, and others); and
- ✓ Local government representatives.

What are its responsibilities?

The responsibilities of the RAB are to:

- ✓ Provide individual advice on environmental restoration issues to the Corps and state regulatory agencies. However, the RAB does not make decisions on the cleanup process.

GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

PROJECT UPDATE FOR DECEMBER 9, 1997

ACTIVITIES SINCE THE LAST RAB MEETING

Created Gerstle River web site

<http://knik.poa.usace.army.mil>

Researched records of testing

Worked to declassify additional documents

Prepared a fact sheet on chemical agents

Teleconference with former test officer

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Finalize summary of testing records

Summarize all previous investigative work since 1994

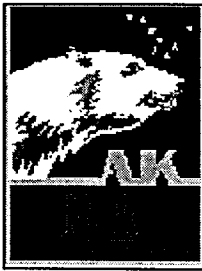
Refine geophysical data and compare with testing records

Perform additional geophysical work, if needed

Determine risk at testing areas

Perform confirmation dig

Remove drums and investigate other dump areas for removals



GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA

Formerly Used Defense Site

Information Page

The Gerstle River Expansion Area was used as an Army training area for chemical weapons, small arms, artillery, and helicopters. The U.S. Army Engineer District (Corps) is investigating the possibility of ordnance and other hazards remaining at the site from these military activities. In 1972, the land was returned to BLM and State of Alaska control. The land is currently used by local residents for hunting and recreation, and by the state as a bison range and forest products area. There is concern about the public safety from past military land use activity.

Maps and Photos:

- Gerstle River Location Map
- Site 9 Air Photo
- Site 10 Air Photo
- Borrow Pit Air Photo

Information Documents:

- Gerstle River Formerly Used Defense Site Newsletter, June 1997
- Gerstle River Restoration Advisory Board Meeting Summary, August 12, 1997
- Gerstle River Restoration Advisory Board Meeting Minutes, August 12, 1997

For further further information, please email Bob Chivvis or call (907) 753-5782



Chemical Agents GB and VX

Chemical Agents - Overview

Chemical warfare agents are substances in either gas, liquid, or solid forms, which were formerly tested by the U.S. Military for possible wartime use due to their toxic effect on humans, animals, or the environment. GB and VX belong to the family of chemical agents known as nerve agents, which affect the central nervous system. The nerve agents disrupt the metabolic processes and block the production of a chemical which regulates nerve messages sent to the brain.

Chemical warfare weapons refer to the toxic chemical substance and the ammunition and equipment required for its dispersal. The Biological and Toxic Warfare Convention of 1972 banned the use of chemical and biological weapons. After this time, the U.S. Military stopped testing chemical agents and began decommissioning stockpiled weapons.

What are GB and VX?

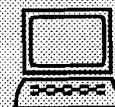
GB, also commonly referred to as Sarin, is the lethal nerve agent *Isopropyl methylphosphonofluoridate*, a colorless and practically odorless liquid which dissolves quickly in water and dissipates in the environment within a couple of days. GB was discovered in 1938 and its limited production began in 1944. GB is lethal if inhaled, ingested, or absorbed through the skin or eye at toxic levels.

VX is the common name for *O-ethyl-S-(2-isopropyl-aminoethyl) methyl phosphonomothiolate*, a colorless, odorless nerve agent which is less volatile than GB and approximately tenfold more poisonous. VX was discovered in the mid-1950s and full scale production in the U.S. began in 1961. The primary means of exposure is absorption through the skin, although VX can be lethal if inhaled or ingested. VX has been found to dissolve in cold water (depending on pH), and can remain in the environment for a maximum of several weeks in typical summer conditions. Even if VX remains containerized, some degradation will occur over time.

Gerstle River Expansion Area

The Gerstle River Expansion Area was used by the Military for GB and VX testing from 1965 to 1967. No munitions have been tested in the area since 1967. The site was cleaned up and all testing equipment was removed from the Expansion Area in 1970. In 1972, the land was returned to State of Alaska control and is currently used by local residents for hunting and recreation, and by the state as a bison range and forest products area.

Want to Know More About Chemical Agents?



This fact sheet provides a brief overview of the chemical agents GB and VX. There are other sources of information available containing more detailed information, such as the following web sites:

www.apgea.army.mil/RDA/erdec/risk/safety/msds/vxl.html

www.apgea.army.mil/RDA/erdec/risk/safety/msds/gbl.html

www.opcw.nl/chemhaz/nerve.htm

EXHIBIT D

RAB MEMBER CONTACT LIST

RAB Members

Gerstle River Expansion Area



Last Name	First Name	Organization	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Day Phone
Brown	Audrey	Local Firefighters	P.O. Box 990	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-5297
Chivvis	Robert	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	P.O. Box 898	Anchorage	AK	99506-0898	907-753-5782
DuBois	Steve	Alaska Department of Fish & Game	P.O. Box 605	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-4484
Edgren	Al	ANDR - Division of Forestry	P.O. Box 1149	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-4225
Fields	Stephen	Sal/Big Delta Soil & Wat Cons District	P.O. Box 1013	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-1950
Good	Nathaniel	GREA RAB Comm. Co-Chair (Alt)	P.O. Box 827	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-6282
Griswold	Arthur		HC-62, Box 5308	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-488-7034
Layne	Robert	ADNR - Division of Land	3700 Airport Way	Fairbanks	AK	99709-4699	907-451-2700
Levine	Jim	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	P.O. Box 898	Anchorage	AK	99506-0898	907-753-5685
Miller	Thomas		HC-60 Box 1260	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-5157
Miller	P.R.		P.O. Box 384	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-4493
Short	Ronan	Alaska Dept of Environ Conservation	610 University Avenue	Fairbanks	AK	99709-3643	907-451-2156
Webb	Tamie		HC-62 Box 5358	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-1024
Webb	Tim	GREA RAB Comm. Co-Chair	HC-62 Box 5358	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-1024

Memo



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TO: Distribution
Gerstle River Restoration Advisory Board

FROM: Kimberly Morris

DATE: March 19, 1998

SUBJECT: Appendix C Update to Gerstle River Expansion Area
Restoration Advisory Board Summary Report

Please find enclosed an update to the Gerstle River Expansion Area, Restoration Advisory Board Summary Report originally dated September 1997. The enclosed sections need to be either replaced or inserted in your copy of the report. Changes to the report are summarized below:

Final 12/9/97 Meeting Minutes In Appendix B, replace draft meeting notes on pages B-2 through B-6 with final meeting notes enclosed.

Appendix C Insert Appendix C behind Appendix B. Appendix C contains information about the RAB meeting held on February 11, 1998.

The bright pink pages contain instructions on updating your report and also divide each section. Please follow the instructions on the pink pages for updating your report and discard the pink pages when you have replaced or inserted the appropriate section.

If you have any questions, please call me at 562-3366 (within Anchorage) or 800-909-6787 (outside of Anchorage).

APPENDIX B

Please replace pages B-2 through B-6 of Appendix A

These pages contain the final 12/9/97 meeting notes.

Meeting Notes

Gerstle River Expansion Area

Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

December 9, 1997, 6:00 p.m., Delta Junction City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Robert Chivvis of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

Introductions and sign in

Agenda Items (see attached agenda)

1. Approve meeting agenda - The Corps asked for suggestions on changes to the agenda. It was suggested that the agenda items be reordered and the Corps initiate new members joining the RAB after the project information was presented. It was mentioned that, if necessary, we could postpone adoption of bylaws to next meeting.

The Corps gave a brief description of a RAB and the responsibilities of RAB members. The Corps explained that the RAB would meet 3 to 4 times per year, or more if the RAB felt necessary. The Corps explained that they are still discovering new information and there are documents still missing. They want to establish the RAB to form a team to communicate project information to the community, and receive input from the community.

7. Update on the project - The Corps answered questions regarding how the Corps is responsible for cleanup operations at formerly used defense sites. At Gerstle River, sites 9 and 10 were the two sites of primary concern, but the Corps is responsible for any cleanup operation on the entire 80,000 acres.

Teleconference with Tom See, GB Test Officer for Devil Hole I in 1965. The group reviewed the questions that were going to be asked of Mr. See and asked for any additional questions from the group. Before the teleconference began, the Corps gave a brief summary of the document search they are in the process of conducting and how they came into contact with Mr. See. The Corps mentioned that they had found the test plans for Devil Hole I, and were trying to obtain them.

Teleconference Notes

Mr. See was asked when he was involved in the testing at Gerstle River and to explain his role. He indicated that he was at Gerstle River during 1965 and 1966 and that he was a Test Officer for the Devil Hole I tests. His role as test officer included acting as the leader and coordinator for the test grid and the test themselves. Also present during the test operations were a Munitions Officer, Safety Officer, Supply Officer, and Army Officer.

Mr. See was asked to explain how the tests were conducted and how they were observed. He explained that munitions were either set off in place or fired into the grid. After detonation, air

samples would be collected. Observers were located on a wagon (a one and half story platform) and they would watch for a burst or cloud. The crew went in and picked up the samplers after the tests were completed and would make note of anything unusual or questionable.

Mr. See was asked how observations were made during multiple detonations. He replied that rarely are detonations simultaneous. You can see the burst and count the explosions.

Mr. See was asked what the procedure would be if there was a question about detonation. He explained that the round would have to be located and anything questionable would be noted. Mr. See recalls that there were no duds on the grid itself, and they did not have any alerts.

Mr. See was asked what the procedure was for siting in. He explained that they would use high explosive rounds for siting in, and he recalled no duds. A round went off outside the grid, more toward the siting area. This round would have been a numbered trial, but would have been recorded as no data since the round didn't land within the grid. The siting area is more toward Gerstle River, a swampy area. Mr. See indicated that he had found notes listing all the trials, but that he did not have registration rounds. He advised that the Corps try to find the final report, which consists of the test officer's log, the safety report, and the munitions report.

Mr. See was asked if he participated in the Devil Hole II preliminary tests. He replied that he was present during tests at the Aspen grid 1408 for GB testing. GB testing took place at the Aspen and Spruce Grid (closer to Gerstle River) 59073.

Mr. See was asked how far away the observers were from the grids. He replied that he would estimate around 1,000 feet.

Mr. See was asked what "questionable" meant as it referred to notes in the log book. He explained that the burst may have been near another burst and the height is questionable, but one would have to get the munitions report to get the data. There was a report for every trial. Mr. See recalled that the munitions officer was Mr. Cliff Shields.

Mr. See was asked whether he recalled any duds outside the grid. He replied that he has no records on rounds that were fired, he recalls no duds that were high explosive ranging rounds. There was a round that missed the grid, a no data round (1402 artillery rounds).

Mr. See was asked whether Mr. Shields was present for the 1966 testing. He replied yes.

Mr. See was asked to explain what was done with sampling equipment. He explained that the samples were brought off the grid, the equipment was decontaminated, and the tests were taken to Fort Greely.

Mr. See was asked whether he recalls any suspect sites that may be worth looking into. He replied no.

Mr. See was asked whether he recalls the Army Officer in charge. He indicated that he recalled the name Ledbetter. He did not recall the name of the Artillery Officer.

Mr. See was asked if there was a disposal area at the command post. He replied that there was no disposal area at the command post and that equipment went to the garbage pit.

6. ADEC Presentation – Mr. Ronan Short of ADEC gave a brief presentation on the history of their involvement with the Gerstle River Expansion Area. ADEC is the regulatory agency responsible for the protection of human health at the site. ADEC recognizes that a lot of progress has been made so far on this project. It should not be misunderstood that ADEC is working with the Corps and is not concerned about the site. ADEC's goals are still distinct with regard to the project, even though there is a close working relationship between the Corps, ADEC, and ADNRR. ADEC is especially concerned with finding and declassifying documents pertaining to site activities. Institutional controls may need to be implemented if questions regarding the safety of the site cannot be readily answered. ADEC wants to continue trying to answer questions about the site, keep community interest high, and continue working together to find solutions.

A question was posed as to where ADEC stands with respect to the safety of the site today.

Mr. Short replied that, although issues are not completely resolved yet, they are close to stating that there are no munitions left at site 9. The document search is the first step, then an intrusive investigation should occur to support findings.

7. Project Update (Continued)

What has been accomplished to date?

- ♦ The Corps has established a web site at <http://knik.poa.usace.army.mil> to post information on the site, meeting minutes, fact sheets, etc.
- ♦ In response to a comment received at the August RAB meeting, the Corps advertised the RAB meeting using posters and a public service announcement, in addition to newspaper advertisements.
- ♦ The Corps is still working to declassify documents. They are making requests to have specific sections declassified, since sections can often be declassified more quickly than entire documents.
- ♦ The Corps has prepared a fact sheet on the chemical agents VX and GB for general information. The fact sheet is available at this RAB meeting.

A comment from a community member present was that the RAB needed to work on 2-way communication--rather than communications from the Corps to the community, or between agencies.

- ♦ We've conducted the teleconference with Mr. See.

What the Corps plans to accomplish in the future:

- ♦ Finalize the summary of testing records.
- ♦ Summarize all previous investigative work performed at the site since 1994.
- ♦ Refine geophysical data and compare with testing records.

The question arose that, if the Corps used a hydroaxe out at the site, how can anything be left out there? The Corps replied that they are confident the surface does not contain explosive rounds.

- ♦ Perform additional geophysical work, if needed.
- ♦ Determine risk at testing areas and examine options.
- ♦ Perform confirmation digs for any known anomalies.
- ♦ Remove drums and investigate other dump areas for removals.

The Corps asked if there were any comments on their preliminary plan for the Gerstle River Site.

A community member replied that the preliminary plan contained broad generalizations—and that the community needs more specifics on what records are being searched and specifically what's been done.

2. Approve August RAB meeting minutes - Approved.
3. Confirmation of new RAB members:

Audrey A. Brown
Tim Webb
Tom Miller
Tamie Webb
Art Griswold

4. RAB Bylaws - The Corps will send out the draft bylaws to the new RAB members. Bylaws will be adopted next meeting.
5. Election of community co-chair:

Tim Webb (primary co-chair)
Nat Good (alternate co-chair)

General Comments:

Try to get the draft meeting minutes sent out to RAB members as soon as possible.

An ADEC representative asked the community how the agencies can communicate better with the community. A reply was to send out fact sheets on what has been done so far.

Suggestion that a newspaper article be written for the Delta Wind that would provide information on the project and the RAB.

Question on time frame of concern at the Gerstle River Expansion Area. The Corps is concerned with the years between 1954 and 1967.

Has the Corps researched the National Archives in Anchorage? No (was the answer provided during the RAB meeting, but was incorrect. According to the Archive Search Report dated July 1994, the Corps [St. Louis] visited the Anchorage National Archives in May 1994).

It was suggested that the next meeting be held before planning starts for the 1998 field season, and after the Corps has completed the Records Review Memorandum.

It was decided that the next meeting would be held on February 11, 1998 at 6:00 p.m. at Delta Junction City Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.